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Regional Development Authority Offers Gap Funding for Northwest Indiana Bus Service

If local officials can identify and implement a source of revenue to sustain operations in perpetuity, the RDA will provide gap financing to support the current bus system.

Crown Point (April 17, 2012) – The Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) is offering to provide gap funding for the regional busing to continue operating after its announced June 30 shutdown date – if local officials can identify and implement a permanent funding source before that occurs.

“Over the past two years, the region has made progress toward the creation of a unified bus system,” says RDA Executive Director Bill Hanna. “The RDA’s clear role in this effort has been to provide the funding necessary to establish a foundation to build on. The RDA was never intended to, nor is it in the position to, fund ongoing bus operations. The system is currently in the position to move forward and to continue to make improvements; however, without an appropriate source of funding the system will soon collapse.”

However, the loss of regional busing would have a grave impact on the thousands of men and women of Northwest Indiana who rely on those buses to get to work, school and stores.

Accordingly, the RDA is willing to continue to fund regional busing operations on a temporary basis beyond June 30 if local leaders can identify and implement a source of revenue to fund operations in perpetuity.

“Local leaders have options for providing appropriate and stable funding sources, and the time to act is now,” Hanna says. “Our role, if a permanent source of funding can be found, will be to assist in avoiding a shutdown while a new source of revenue is put in place.”

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About the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority

Established in 2005 through a bipartisan effort including Governor Mitchell E. Daniels, Congressman Peter J. Visclosky, key state legislators, and local elected officials, the RDA is quasi-governmental development entity entrusted to make public investment decisions within a regional framework for supporting catalytic infrastructure projects and inducing private sector investment. Its mission is to be a catalyst for transforming the economy and quality of life for Northwest Indiana. For more information, visit www.in.gov/rda